

ABSTRACT

AL-V-294

MASON-DIXON LINE: MILESTONE NO. ---(172)
 Wellersburg, Pennsylvania vicinity
 Public/private

1767 (mound of earth)
 1902 (marble monument)

Milestone No. ---(172) and its mound of earth on Little Allegheny Mountain ridge mark a point on Mason and Dixon's West Line 163 miles and 59 chains "from the Post Marked West in Mr. Bryan's Field" or about 160.747 miles west of the northeast corner of Maryland, the beginning of their 230.228-mile West Line. The monument is a very plain dressed marble post with a low pyramidal top, quarried and carved in Cockeysville, Maryland; **is in excellent** condition, unaltered, firmly set ^{in the center of the mound}; measures about 10 inches square by about 13 inches high above the mound; and is embellished only by the capital letter P on the north side facing Pennsylvania, M on the south side facing Maryland, the year 1766 on the east side (when this area was preliminarily surveyed) and 1902 on the west side (when this monument was set). The large low mound of earth, originally with a wood centerpost marked M on the west side, was erected by Mason and Dixon in 1767 and has survived as an unusually fine one, covered with unmown grass, in excellent condition, unaltered, and measures an estimated 18 feet in diameter by about 2½ feet high at the center. The monument and mound are significant on the national and state levels primarily as among the thematic group series of some 248 markers still visually defining the West Line, the boundary later known as the Mason-Dixon Line, famous for its historical impact and innovative survey methods. Locally, as among the 37 markers ^(including 9 mounds) along the present Allegany/Fulton-Bedford-Somerset county boundary, they are also significant symbolically for their identifiable relationship to the colonial and Civil War heritage of these counties.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME BOUNDARY MARKERS ALONG THE MASON-DIXON LINE (THEMATIC GROUP)

HISTORIC (Mason and Dixon's) WEST LINE, Post and Heap of Earth on "The little Allegheny Mountain" marking 163 Miles and 59 Chains "from the Post Marked West AND/OR COMMON in Mr. Bryan's Field"

MASON-DIXON LINE: MILESTONE NO. --- (1900-03 Resurvey Monument No. 172)

2 LOCATION (not for publication)

STREET & NUMBER off the southeast side of T-766, on Little Allegheny Mountain summit

CITY, TOWN Wellersburg ☒ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
MD: 6 / PA: 12

STATE Pennsylvania

COUNTY
MD: Allegany / PA: Somerset

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS N/A	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OBJECT S	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: state boundary marker

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY (monument and mound only; see Thematic Group NR nomination form and surrounding property ownership list)

NAME

State of Maryland/Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE, zip code

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION (see Thematic Group NR nomination form and surrounding property ownership list)

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (also see Thematic Group NR nomination form)

TITLE

Allegheny County Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

AL-VB-283 entered 6/2/81

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 21401

7 DESCRIPTION

Survey No. FL-V-294

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT (mound)	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED (monument)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED (mound)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE (monument)
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Milestone No. ---(172) was a new monument in 1902 when added to the center of a large original mound of earth during the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary. It is a dressed Cockeysville marble post with a low pyramidal top; is in excellent condition, firmly set, unaltered; measures close to 10 inches square by about 13 inches above the mound; and is embellished only by the capital letter P on the north side facing Pennsylvania, M on the south side facing Maryland, the year 1766 on the east side (when this area was preliminarily surveyed) and 1902 on the west side (when the monument was set). The mound is an unusually fine one, grassy, in excellent condition, unaltered, marking the original site, and measures an estimated 18 feet in diameter by about 2½ feet high at the center.

The area here is the broad, rolling summit-ridge of Little Allegheny Mountain, mostly open farmed land with fenced pastures, surrounded on the mountain slopes by vast dense forests. The site is within Election District 20 of Allegany County, MD, and Southampton Township of Somerset County, PA; near 2 miles east of the village of Wellersburg, PA; about 1700 feet south-southeast of T-766, about 20 feet northeast of a metal gate across the farm service lane and an east-west old barbed wire fence between the Detrick property on the north and Emerick land on the south; about 300 feet south of the new pipeline posts, in a cattle pasture along the ridge. It cannot be seen from the road, but easily from the lane, all seasons, and seems well protected by its remoteness and the property owners.

The monument, identical to 65 other monuments of 1902 set west of Sideling Hill along the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary, was quarried and carved in Cockeysville, Maryland, of a white, fine-grained marble called saccharoidal dolomite or magnesian limestone; was originally cut about 10 inches square by about 4½ feet long, intended for setting about 1½ feet above ground, with the remaining 3 feet for setting firmly into the ground or mound. The letters and numbers are blocky, V-sunk without serifs, and are horizontally aligned as a band around the stone near the top. These, and the top planes and apex are all clear and intact, with only a few minor chips at the top corners and along the vertical edges. This part of the Line was preliminarily surveyed by Mason and Dixon in 1766, but the "Heap of Earth" and wood centerpost "about 12 Inches Square Marked W on the West Side" were not erected until November 23rd, 1767--during the last week of their field work west of "Sidelong Hill." (A. H. Mason, 1969 p. 191 and 193).

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY (see Thematic Group NR nomination form for descriptions of the several kinds of markers set west of Sideling Hill and the original Mason and Dixon cairns)

ML-V-294

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		boundary surveying

SPECIFIC DATES 1767 (mound) ~~BUILDER/ARCHITECT~~ Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon
 1902 (monument) ~~SURVEYORS~~

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Milestone No. ---(172) and its earth mound are significant on the national and state levels primarily as among the thematic group series of some 248 markers still visually defining Mason and Dixon's West Line, the 230.228-mile provincial boundary later known as the Mason-Dixon Line, famous for its historical impact and innovative survey methods. This part of the Line was preliminarily surveyed in 1766, this site marked with a "Heap of Earth" and wood centerpost November 23, 1767, and the new Cockeysville marble monument added as a substitute for the post in 1902 during the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary. Locally, as one of 37 markers/along the present (including 9 mounds) Allegany/Fulton-Bedford-Somerset county boundary, No. ---(172)/and mound are also significant for their identifiable relationship to the colonial and Civil War heritage of these counties.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (see Thematic Group National Register nomination form)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

AL-V-294

(see Thematic Group National Register nomination form)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATAACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

Quadrangle name: Cumberland (Maryland-Pennsylvania-West Virginia), USGS 7.5 minute series (topographic), 1949 photorev. 1974, scale 1:24000

UTM reference: zone 17, easting 68721, northing 439906

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

N/A

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE Maryland

COUNTY Allegany

STATE Pennsylvania

COUNTY Somerset

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Alice Martin (volunteer, Mason and Dixon's West Line boundary marker surveyor)

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust and Maryland Geological Survey

DATE

8/2/81 (site surveyed)

STREET & NUMBER

14308 Mount Avenue

TELEPHONE

(301) 472-2128

CITY OR TOWN

Phoenix

STATE

Maryland 21131

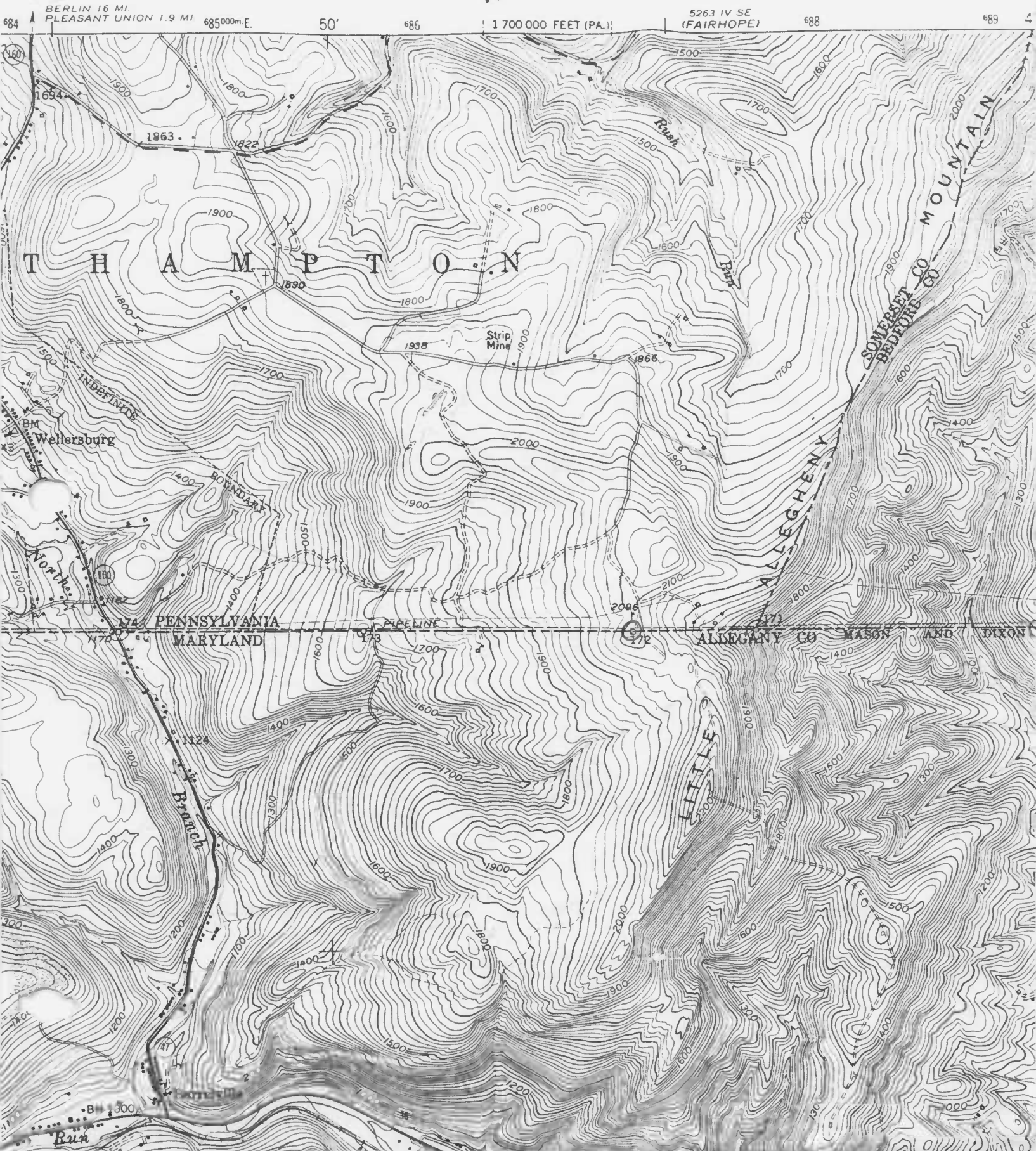
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

AL-V-294
MASON & DIXON WEST LINE MILESTONE - (172)

CUMBERLAND QUADRANGLE
MARYLAND-PENNSYLVANIA-WEST VIRGINIA
USGS 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
1949 PHOTOREV. 1974 SCALE: 1"=2000'





HASON & DIXON'S WEST LINE: MILESTONE — (172)
SW CORNER (1962/M)

PHOTO: ALICE MARTO 8/2/81 (1981. 28. 7)



MAY

MASON & DIXON'S WEST LINE: MILESTONE — (172)
NE CORNER (1766/P)

PHOTO: ALICE MARTIN 8/2/71 (1981.28.4)